The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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POWER OF UNIONISM SHOWN

Chicago, Aug. 28.—"This proves that where the politician, the civil service law and the legislature fail to conserve our interests, our trade union activities do not fail us."

The above is A. F. of L Organizer Fitzpatrick's concluding sentence in his report of organized labor's successful effort to secure the following gains in state charitable institutions:

Equal pay for men and women, one day rest in seven, an automatic increase in wages based on length of service, change of shifts every seven days instead of every month as heretofore.

Organizer Fitzpatrick shows that from the time hospital attendants and nurses in this state organized, less than two years ago, their gains have been continuous, despite office holders' opposition. The first gain was changing the 12 and 14-hour day to an eight-hour day. The legislature then reduced appropriations for these institutions, and also defeated the bill providing for one day's rest in seven. Regardless of these handicaps, the state board of administration, aided by trade unionists, worked out a system of gains that places Illinois in the van in its treatment of workers in state institutions, and justifies Organizer Fitzpatrick's opinion that the trade union can be depended on, even though office holders ignore just demands.

INDUSTRY'S TOLL.

Jersey City, N. J., Aug. 28.—In a speech on occupational diseases before the state federation of labor, State Commissioner of Labor Bryant said:

"Every minute that passes some worker in this country is injured. Every sixteen minutes some worker dies. Thirty per cent of these injuries can be prevented. Five hundred thousand workers are suffering from some occupational disease, while 3,000,000 are in poor health through some industrial cause."

The convention denounced officials who used their authority to break the Bayonne strike and force these workers to accept conditions offered by Standard Oil. Methods resorted to by employers and public officials in the Roosevelt strike was also condemned and the convention declared:

"The cry of overworked and underpaid workmen shall not be drowned in the hiss of bullets fired by hired gunmen in the guise of deputy sheriffs."

The convention reaffirmed its opposition to a state constabulary and declared its opposition to all officials who use their authority "to deny the right of assemblage and free speech to any body of citizens who may endeavor to better their conditions."

LAWSON JUROR ARRESTED.

Trinidad, Col., Aug. 28.—Grover Hall, a member of the jury which convicted John R. Lawson, has been arrested on a charge of perjury. The complainant is State Attorney General Farrar, who bases his action on the affidavit made by Hall and incorporated in Lawson's motion for a new trial, in which Hall swore that he had been coerced in voting Lawson guilty by a court bailiff and by Judge [illegible], who ordered that no food should be furnished the jury until it agreed. The arrest of Hall indicates the straits Lawson's prosecutors are in. In an attempt to weaken Hall's affidavit when the court was considering Lawson's appeal for a new trial, other jurors swore that they looked upon Judge Hillyer's order as a "joke," although they agreed on a verdict shortly afterwards. Hall took the order seriously and in an attempt to weaken his position he is charged with perjury.

STEREOTYPERS GAIN.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Aug. 28.—President Freel, of the International Stereotypers and Electrotypers' union, reports the following recent gains:

Dallas—Evening newspapers—Foremen, $30 per week; journeymen, $3.75 per day; March 1, next year, $3.87 per day; after March 1, 1917, $4 per day. Morning newspapers—Foremen, $30 per week; journeymen, $4 per night; after March 1, 1917, $4.25 per night. The old scale was: Journeymen, days, $3.50; nights, $4.

St. Joseph, Mo.—Wage increases of 25 cents a day and night for all branches.

Lincoln, Neb.—Foremen, $3.75 minimum for day or night; journeymen, $3 minimum for day or night. Latter rates are increased 25 cents a day after June 1, 1917.

Lexington, Ky.—Foreman, not less than $24 a week; journeymen, minimum, $3.

TRICKS OF LAW SHOWN.

Philadelphia, Aug. 28.—Judge Audenreid has reversed an award of $5,500 to Edward B. Stocker, who was struck by a freight car, crushing his leg so badly it had to be amputated.

Stocker's mistake, the judge asserted, was in filing his suit under the federal liability law. It was not proved, the court says, that either the engine or the freight car that hit him was engaged in interstate commerce, therefore the claim should have been filed under the laws of Pennsylvania.

DEMAND FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

Worcester, Mass., Aug. 28.—Municipal authorities have resurrected an old ordinance and unionists are arrested on the charge of "obstructing the streets." Jacob Levine, chairman of the organizing committee of the Central Labor union, was arrested on this charge when addressing a meeting of shop men and the organized workers have appointed a committee to protect freedom of speech. Several speakers have been arrested within the past month, but the law so far has only applied to meetings of workers.

CAN WORKERS WIN STRIKE.

Wheeling, W. Va., Aug. 28.—Organization made it possible for employes of the Wheeling Can company to win a three weeks' strike, secure recognition as unionists and improve working conditions. The company agrees to meet grievance committees and further agrees that those workers who are last employed shall be laid off first during slack times. All employes are reinstated without prejudice.

SHORTER HOURS GRANTED.

Taunton, Mass., Aug. 28.—As a result of conferences with officers of the Machinists' union the Mason machine works' management announce that hereafter the hours of labor will be from 7 a. m. until 5 p. m. five days of the week and from 7 a. m. until 11:30 a. m. Saturday. The ten-hour pay schedule will continue.

SIGN TWO-YEAR CONTRACT.

Cleveland, Aug. 28.—The Horseshoers' union has signed a two years' agreement that extends the Saturday half holiday.

PRAISE COLORADO DECISION

Chicago, Aug. 28.—The Tribune of this city editorially applauds the Colorado supreme court's order debarring Judge Hillyer from further consideration of strike cases. The Tribune says:

"If property rights are not regarded in Colorado, they would be less so if confidence in the courts were weakened. If violence were substituted for orderly process, it would be more so substituted if it were proved that capital could command even the judiciary.

"If it be the intent to break down all restraints which protect a man in the possession of his own, no better way to go about it could be imagined than to give an unfair trail to men who have fought against conditions they do not like."

Boston, Aug. 28.—The Globe, of this city, in discussing the Colorado supreme court's decision in the Lawson case, says "it would seem that the train is at last on the right track in Colorado."

The Globe makes this comment on the court's action in debarring Judge Hillyer from presiding at the future trials of miners:

"A judge, charged with having been in the employ of the coal operators, ought never to have presided at the trial of a labor leader. The country does not feel entirely satisfied as to the personnel of the jury which found Lawson guilty.

"A first step toward the course demanded by justice has been taken. Lawson is at least entitled to a trial of which the fairness cannot be doubted."

WILL PROBE IN FALL, MAYBE.

Washington, Aug. 28.—In a report to President Wilson on the Eastland disaster, Secretary of Commerce Redfield says "that as soon as practicable in the fall a searching inquiry will be made into the whole administration of the steamboat inspection service under the supervision of representatives of the navy department and of the public, so that there will be no question of its impartial character." The secretary states that instructions have been given to the steamboat inspection service to take the necessary steps to carry into affect the additional rules and regulations suggested by the board of inquiry. Instructions have also been given to the steamboat inspection service to call together a special committee consisting of supervising inspectors selected from the Atlantic, Pacific and gulf coasts who shall, with the supervising inspectors upon the great lakes, promptly consider what can be done, within the present lawful scope of the steamboat inspection service, to improve its effectiveness.

CARPENTERS WIN LONG FIGHT.

Hamilton, Ontario, Aug. 28.—The Carpenters' union has won its long controversy with the Confederation Construction company, and work on the new Welland ship canal by this concern will now proceed without friction. The new contract provides for a 40-cent minimum, time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sundays and holidays. The work day shall be nine hours and only members of the Carpenters' union a[illegible] be employed. All future differences will be adjusted by arbitration. The company's contract amounts to over $10,000,000, and it is claimed it will not be completed before 1919. The carpenters' victory is the result of persistent agitation and appeals to the Dominion department of labor that the company live up to its contract and the fair wage clause included therein.

REFUTE LABOR SHORTAGE CRY.

Philadelphia, Aug. 28.—The North American exposes the coal operators' claim that prices must be increased this winter because of a labor shortage, due to the war. The companies are storing huge stocks of coal and the paper says:

"So far as labor goes, the only reservists who are going home to fight in any numbers are Italians, and there are very few Italians employed in the anthracite mines. Most of the workers are Slovac, and the Slavs are finding it very difficult, indeed, to make their way back to Russia or Austria, even when they are anxious to go."

Another reason for the operators' activity is that the agreement between them and the miners will expire next April.

ACTIVITY IN SPRINGFIELD.

Springfield, Mass., Aug. 28.—The "labor forward" movement now being conducted by the Central Labor union, is devoting especial attention to organizing machinists. This has resulted in an eight-hour day without wage decreases in some of the larger shops. Over 500 machinists have joined the union of their craft. Meetings are being held at the shop gates. A federal union of button workers has been organized. These workers have settled their strike and secured gains. The state board of arbitration assisted. The textile industry is being given much attention by the "labor forward" committee and English and foreign speakers report that these meetings are well attended.

DEMAND ARBITRATION.

Detroit, Aug. 28.—Trade unionists declare they will oppose the proposed municipal ownership amendment to the city charter providing for municipal ownership unless a clause is inserted guaranteeing arbitration of disputes with employes. Members of the local federation of labor's legislative committee point out another objection to the proposed amendment. This permits city officials who manage the road to compel employes to take a civil service examination "and say you can come in, but must keep out of labor unions."

"MACHINE" NOT DEFECTIVE.

Olympia, Wash., Aug. 28.—Edward Kelly was kicked by a mule, and in explaining to the state industrial insurance commission how he was injured, he filled out part of the official form as follows:

"State part of machinery on which accident occurred."

Answer—"The hind part of a mule."

"Was the machinery in good working order?"

Answer—"Yes."

The commission failed to make any safety first recommendation but allowed Kelly $27.65 in settlement of his claim.

CAR MAN AVERAGED $10.70.

Providence, R. I., Aug. 28.—At the wage adjustment hearing before the board of arbitration, street car men testified that the present wage basis is unfair, and that no extra pay for Sunday work is allowed. It was shown that in the case of one motorman the lowest weekly wage was $8.61 and the highest $14.95, an average of $10.70 from Jan. 2, 1915, to April 17, 1915.

FEDERAL PROBERS OF INDUSTRIAL UNREST COMPLETE REPORT

Opinions of Chairman Walsh and Labor Colleagues Have "Teeth"

Chicago, Aug. 28.—Last Monday the United States commission on industrial relations adjourned sine die after giving final approval to a report that will be filed with the clerk of the house of representatives for presentation to congress, when it convenes next December.

The commission has issued excerpts of the report, which includes supplemental views of all the members.

The principal report, prepared by Basil M. Manly, the commission's director of research and investigation, covers every phase of industrial unrest and the causes therefor. This is approved by Chairman Walsh and Commissioners O'Connell, Lennon and Garretson. It declares the crux of the whole question of industrial relations is: "Shall the workers, for the protection of their interests, be organized and represented collectively by their chosen delegates, even as the stockholders are represented by their directors and by the various grades of executive officials and bosses."

In its plea for a wider extension of democracy in industry, this report says:

"The ordinary man, whether employer or worker, has relatively little contact with the government. If he and his family are well fed, well housed and well clothed, and if he can pay for the education of his children, he can exist even under an autocratic monarchy with little concern until some critical situation develops in which his own liberty is interfered with or until he is deprived of life or property by the overwhelming power of his tyrannical ruler. But his industrial relations determine every day what he and his family shall eat, what they shall wear, how many hours of his life he shall labor and in what surroundings. Under certain conditions where his individual or corporate employer owns or controls the community in which he lives, the education of his children, the character and prices of his food, clothing and house, his own actions, speech and opinions, and in some cases even his religion, are controlled and determined, insofar as the interests of the employer make it desirable for him to exercise such control. Such conditions are established and maintained not only through the dictation of all working conditions of employment by the employer, but by his usurpation or control of the functions and machinery of political government in such communities."

The report summarizes the causes of industrial unrest as follows:

Unjust distribution of wealth and income.

Unemployment and denial of opportunity to earn a living.

Denial of justice in the creation, in the adjudication and in the administration of law.

Denial of the right and opportunity to form effective organizations.

It is shown that 44 families possess aggregate incomes totaling at least $50,000,000 per year, while between one-fourth and one-third of male workers in factories and mines, 18 years of age and over, earn less than $10 per week and only about one-tenth earn more than $20 per week.

To check these swollen, unearned fortunes, it is recommended that congress pass an inheritance tax law and that all funds of deceased over $1,000,000 revert to the government. In support of this action, the report says:

"These heirs, owners only by virtue of the accident of birth, control the livelihoods and have the power to dictate the happiness of more human beings than populated England in the middle ages. Their principalities, it is true, are scattered and, through the medium of stock ownership, shared in part with others; but they are none the less real. In fact, such scattered, invisible industrial principalities are a greater menace to the welfare of the Nation than would be equal power consolidated into numerous petty kingdoms in different parts of the country. They might then be visualized and guarded against—now their influence invisibly permeates and controls every phase of life and industry.

"The 'families' of these industrial princes are already well established and are knit together not only by commercial alliances, but by a network of intermarriages which assure harmonious action whenever their common interest is threatened."

It is declared that the unemployment situation will not be "appreciably relieved" until great advances have been made in removing the two prime causes—unjust distribution of wealth and monopolization of land and natural resources.

Under the head "Denial of Justice," the numerous charges of workers are supported, and the report declares:

"The establishment of property rights and personal rights on the same level can leave only a constant and ever growing menace to our popular institutions. With the acceptance of such an ideal our democracy is doomed to ultimate destruction. Personal rights must be recognized as supreme and of unalterable ascendency over property rights. Relief from these grave evils cannot be secured by petty reforms. The action must be drastic and directed at the roots from which these evils spring."

The pretense of "open shop" advocates is exposed thusly:

"The theory of the 'open shop,' according to these witnesses (employers), is that workers are employed without any reference to their membership or nonmembership in trade unions; while, as a matter of fact, it was found upon investigation that these employers did not willingly or knowingly employ union men. Nevertheless, this is deemed to be a minor point. The 'open shop,' even if union men are not discriminated against, is as much a denial of the right of collective action as is the 'anti-union shop.' In neither is the collective action of employes permitted for the purpose of negotiating with reference to labor conditions. Both in theory and practice, in the absence of legislative regulation, the working conditions are fixed by the employer. It is evident, therefore, that there can at best be only a benevolent despotism where collective action on the part of employes does not exist."

In discussing "Women and Children in Industry," the report says:

"As a result of their unprotected condition, women and children are exploited in industry, trade, domestic service and agriculture, to an extent which threatens their health and welfare and menaces the well-being of future generations. The competition of women and children is a direct menace to the wage and salary standards of men. Under present conditions children are permitted by their parents to go to work largely because their earnings are necessary for the support of the rest of the family."

HOW THEY DIVIDED.

Speaking generally, the commission on industrial relations is divided into two groups, one supporting the Manly report, the other, the Commons report. The individuals in these groups again divided on minor points.

The "Manly group" consists of Chairman Walsh and Commissioners O'Connell, Lennon and Garretson, the three last representing labor. These four members insist that the commission was appointed for the purpose of finding the "causes" of industrial unrest, and deal with such questions as swollen fortunes, monopolization of land and natural resources, feudalism in industry, etc.

The "Commons group" consists of Commissioners Commons, Florence J. Harriman, Aishton, Weinstock and Ballard, the last three representing employers. This group declares the greatest cause for industrial unrest is "the breakdown in the administration of labor laws" and the distrust of government "on the part of a large portion of our people." To remedy this alleged condition, this group favors an elaborate system of machinery to "settle" strikes, enforce labor laws and take charge of all social legislation and make recommendations for same. It would be supported by an inheritance tax. The plan would practically destroy the federal department of labor and would establish a powerful bureaucracy. This group does not favor holding individuals responsible for conditions in Colorado and can see much merit in the Rockefeller and other foundations.

In a supplemental report the three employers' representatives declare labor is justified in organizing to "protect itself against exploitation and oppression."

PHYSICAL TESTS OPPOSED

San Francisco, Aug. 28.—The Labor Clarion calls attention to what it terms "an epidemic among employers for the physical examination of employes." This paper says:

"Under present conditions those workers who are compelled by low wages and long hours to live in the midst of insanitary surroundings cannot hope to be broad-chested and rosy-cheeked enough to come under the requirements of such employers and must necessarily go down in the whirlpool created by the cry for profits.

"With these examinations, as a rule, also goes an age limit, fixed at from 35 to 45 years, barring men, even though healthy, from the right to work if they have passed the specified maximum.

"Neither the employer nor society has the moral right to insist upon such qualifications until some system of insurance has been established covering unemployment, invalidity, sickness and old age.

"To say that a man in the full possession of all his faculties shall be consigned to the scrap heap because he has passed the age of 45, is monstrous, yet such a rule is not one jot more vicious than is the one which shelves the worker because he has some slight physical defect, which may not in the slightest degree decrease his efficiency.

"The apprehensions of the workers concerning the dangers that lurk in these systems are not based upon theory or deduction. They are the result of actual experience and cannot, therefore, be lightly swept aside by employers as devoid of merit.

"Wherever one finds an employer insisting upon these things as a requisite to employment it is almost certain an examination of his record as an employer will reveal him in the capacity of a slave driver with no interest whatever in humanity. This is the rule, and the exceptions are rare, indeed."

ON EIGHT-HOUR BASIS.

Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 28.—The Toledo Machine and Tool company has signed an eight-hour agreement with the Machinists' union. The new scale calls for a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour for machinists and 45 cents an hour for die makers. About 400 men are effected.

STEAM ENGINEERS ORGANIZE.

Hamilton, Ontario, Aug. 28.—Local No. 586 of the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers has been organized.

APPROVE TESTS FOR SEAMEN.

Washington, Aug. 28.—The federal department of commerce has approved regulations fixed by the public health service governing the physical examination of applicants for able seamen's positions on American ships after the seamen's law takes effect next November. At present no physical examination of seamen is required. Under the new law the following defects act as a bar:

Broadly impaired vision, color blindness, deafness, epilepsy, insanity, severe chronic cardiac affections, hernia, severe varicose veins, open tuberculosis, or any chronic defect which will materially interfere with the discharge of the duties of an able seaman.

Moreover, certificates will not be issued to applicants who have not been successfully vaccinated against smallpox within five years. If the applicant has not had typhoid or has not been innoculated against it, he will be advised to be so inoculated.

The department of commerce is proceeding with the work of fixing regulations for enforcement of the seamen's act, although final steps for placing the law in operation are being deferred until the attorney general passes on legal questions now before him relating to the administration of the law.

FARMERS ASKED TO AFFILIATE.

Emporia, Kans., Aug. 28.—The state federation of labor convention invited the Farmers' union to affiliate. Resolutions against the conviction of Lawson were passed. G. E. Blakely of this city was elected president, and George Hamlin of Leavenworth, secretary-treasurer. The convention favored congress printing copies of the report of the commission on industrial relations for free distribution.

EIGHT HOURS FOR OIL WORKERS

Port Arthur, Tex., Aug. 28.—The Gulf Refining company has accepted the eight hour principle and hereafter all work will be done on the shorter work day plan. About 1,500 employes are effected. Many of them formerly labored twelve hours a day.

BROOM MAKERS ORGANIZE.

Galveston, Tex., Aug. 28.—Broom makers in this city have formed a local and affiliated to the international organization of that craft.

COLORADO "BEATING BACK"

Racine, Wis., Aug. 28.—Says the Racine Daily Call in a leading editorial:

"Colorado is 'beating back.' Justice in the Centennial state is waking up. Its supreme court, so long subsidized by Rockefeller interests, has administered a stinging rebuke to those who conspired to railroad John R. Lawson to the penitentiary for life; and Judge Granby Hillyer, the special jurist of the mine owners, whose bias has been notorious, has been debarred from sitting in any more trials involving the miners' strike.

"Lawson, though admitted never to have fired a shot in the mine war, was convicted of murder on the general principle of being a labor leader and therefore guilty of conspiring to kill the mine guards. His trial was a farce and his sentence an outrage.

"It is good to believe that the highest court of Colorado has been stirred by the same conscience that has stirred the people throughout the United States. Lawson was to be railroaded for life imprisonment, or to the gallows even, to warn others that they must not resist the proved tyrannies of the coal companies. If the Colorado supreme court prevents that iniquity it will do the best day's work for courts that has been done in a long time.

"Yes, Colorado is coming back. Injustice such as was heaped on the mine workers at Ludlow cannot endure and the inherent sense of fair play in all normal men eventually rises supreme to their subsidized consciousnesses.

"Colorado is seeing her error and seeing it is making reparation. The temper of the supreme court is conclusive evidence of the dawning of a new day in that state."

MINERS JOINING UNION.

Hazelton, Pa., Aug. 28.—Last week President White, of the United Mine Workers' union, started on the last lap of his organizing campaign through the three anthracite districts. In his opening address in this city to the miners of district No. 7 he declared that the coal diggers were awake to the necessity of standing 100 per cent strong behind their representatives at the forthcoming tri-district convention at Wilkes-Barre, which will formulate the new wage scale. It is estimated that President White has been listened to by a quarter of a million of people throughout the hard coal regions. In his opening speech in this city he referred to conditions in Colorado and charged that Rockefeller money is financing the attempt to railroad trade unionists to jail.

ROCKEFELLER BLAMED FOR COLORADO OUTRAGES

Chicago, Aug. 28.—The responsibility for the strike of coal miners in Colorado in 1913 and 1914, and for the disorder and suffering that followed, is placed squarely on the shoulders of operators in a report by George P. West to the commission on industrial relations.

The report is indorsed by Commissioners Walsh, O'Connell, Lennon, and Garretson.

The Colorado Fuel and Iron company, controlled by John D. Rockefeller, is declared to have been the leader in formulating and carrying out strike policies. Mr. Rockefeller and his son are charged, first, with the selection of incompetent and reactionary agents to serve as executive officials in this company, and, second, with giving their heartiest indorsement and support to these officials after they had taken action and precipitated the worst of troubles.

Rockefeller, jr., is charged with having approved measures to coerce the state government of Colorado and with having flouted the will of the President of the United States.

The report says:

"During all the seven tragic and bitter months that preceded Ludlow, Mr. Rockefeller wrote letter after letter in enthusiastic praise of men whose acts during this period had precipitated a reign of terror and bloodshed. It was only when the Ludlow massacre filled the press of the Nation with editorial denunciation, when mourners in black silently paraded in front of his New York office, when cartoons in the conservative press pilloried him and his father before an angry public, that at last complacency gives way to concern in his letters and telegrams to Denver."

John R. Lawson is referred to as "a man of exceptionally high character and a good citizen in every sense of the word."

In referring to John Nimmo, whose death Lawson is held responsible for, the report says:

"Nimmo was one of a small army of deputy sheriffs, employed and paid by the coal companies and deputized by subservient sheriffs, who made little or no effort to investigate their records. Thus Sheriff Jefferson Farr, of Huerfano county, testified before this commission that the men to whom he gave deputies' commissions might have been, so far as he knew, red-handed murderers fresh from the scene of their crimes. That many guards deputized in this illegal fashion and paid by the Colorado Fuel & Iron company, were men of the lowest and most vicious character has been clearly established."

The report recites events leading up to Lawson's trial, and then declares:

"The prosecution and conviction of Mr. Lawson, under these circumstances, and his sentence to life imprisonment at hard labor, marked the lowest depths of the prostitution of Colorado's government to the will of the Colorado Fuel & Iron company and its associates. It is the crowning infamy of all the infamous record in Colorado of American institutions perverted and debauched by selfish private interests. It is anarchism stripped of every pretense of even that chimerical idealism that fires the unbalanced mind of the bomb thrower. It is anarchism for profits and revenge, and it menaces the security and integrity of American institutions as they seldom have been menaced before."

ARE WELL TRAINED PARROTS

San Francisco, Aug. 28.—The above term is used by Editor Barry of the Star in answering the claim of John C. Hatzell that the seamen's law will die without going into effect, and that "in many ways it is impractical."

Hatzell is a member of the board of governors in charge of the New York state school ship Newport, now in San Francisco Bay, and Editor Barry makes this comment on the eastern man's views:

"It seems that the order has gone forth from the 'financial district' of New York to knock the seamen's law. Common sailors have no influence in financial districts; besides, sailors are accustomed to the present law—which is inhuman—and there's no telling what they might do if they were treated as men. Anyway, the financial interests that are trying to break down the seamen's law have a large flock of well-trained parrots, which never miss an opportunity to say something against the law.

"When working men and women strike against low wages and bad conditions, we hear a good deal from the New York financial district about 'law and order,' and 'respect for law' and 'obeying the law.' But those nice shibboleths are forgotten when the seamen's law is discussed. Mr. Hatzell does not tell why or how the seamen's law is impractical. Perhaps he doesn't know."

EMPLOYMENT PLAN URGED.

Philadelphia, Aug. 28.—At a conference in this city organized labor, aid societies and the state department of labor and industry joined hands in recommending a state bureau of employment. An official of the Federation of Italian Societies said such a bureau would prevent exploitation. "It is nothing uncommon for a contractor to force a man to wait five days for one day's pay," he said. "I have known poor Italians to make three or four trips to Germantown from the Italian colony to collect wages for a few hours' work."

Prof. Willits, of the University of Pennsylvania, said:

"Big business today is represented by superintendents and foremen, who, as a rule, are the most inhuman institutions in our American life. As a result, we have thousands of men shifting from one job to another, which means economic loss and much human suffering."

President Maurer, of the state federation of labor, supported this claim, declaring that employers vest too much authority with subordinates.

URGE STATE LABOR BUREAU.

Charleston, S. C., Aug. 28.—At the first convention of the South Carolina federation of labor it was voted to ask the legislature to establish a state labor bureau. The unionists favored a state system of highways, a compensation bill and a 50-car bill to apply to railroads. Officers were instructed to urge the Farmers' union to act with the industrial workers in matters of mutual interest. Governor Manning was unable to be present, but in a letter to the convention, he said:

"By uniting together, the men whom you represent form a powerful factor in the conduct of the affairs of the state and the Nation. The influence of labor is great. I recognize the soundness of its principles by incorporating many of them into my platform last summer; and again in my inaugural address bringing to the attention of the general assembly matters in which labor is interested."

GIVES BONUS BUT BARS UNIONS.

Springfield, Mass., Aug. 28.—The Smith & Wesson company, makers of rifles, announce the inauguration of a bonus system, beginning Sept. 1. All employes will be paid 5 per cent of their total earnings during each quarter for the next year. One of the conditions makes it impossible for a worker to join a labor union and receive the bonus, as it provides that the worker must notify the company if he intends joining such labor organization. If an employe resigns or is discharged he is disqualified from receiving the bonus.

The company does not deny that the new scheme was installed for the purpose of "quieting discontent." Trade unionists are comparing this "concession" with the gains organized workers secure without surrendering individual rights.

SECURE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Philadelphia, Aug. 28.—Insulators and Asbestos Workers' union has signed an eight-hour contract with employers. Work done after 5 p. m. and until 10 p. m. shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half. Double time shall be paid for work after 10 p. m. and on holidays. No work shall be done on Labor Day as the employers agree to pay the prohibitive rates of three times the regular rates. Employers shall pay all car fare in excess of 10 cents daily. The minimum rates shall be $2.50 per day until August 1, 1916, and $2.75 from that date until August 5, 1917. Only union men are to be employed.

WANTS LAND FOR PEASANTS.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Aug. 28.—A demand that the Porto Rico government put its peasants on the land is made by A. F. of L. Organizer Iglesias, in the official newspaper of the federation of labor. The trade unionist says absentee property owners and foreign corporations have grown rich through agriculture and the guarantees offered by modern conditions. Industrial depression and speculation are at their height, and rents, interest rates and living costs have risen proportionately, says Iglesias.

PRINTERS SIGN AGREEMENT.

Toronto, Ontario, Aug. 28.—Typographical union has accepted the award of an arbitration board to extend its contract one year. Unsettled industrial conditions because of the war made wage increases impossible, but several improvements in working conditions are secured.

KANSAS MINERS WIN.

Pittsburg, Kans., Aug. 28.—Union miners employed by the Sheridan Coal company have won their strike. The workers insisted on an equitable distribution of work at one of the subsidiary mines of the Sheridan company. About 1,000 miners were involved.

BRASS MOLDERS WIN.

Cleveland, Aug. 28.—Nearly a score of brass molding shops in this city have agreed to a [illegible] minimum wage and a [illegible] minimum for piece work. President Valentine, of the International Molders' union, assisted in the negotiations.

SAVING BABE SAVES FAMILY

San Francisco, Aug. 28.—"Wherever the life of the infant is safeguarded the standard of life of the whole family is lifted," said Miss Julia Lathrop, chief of the federal children's bureau, in a speech in this city.

"In all our investigations we find the infant mortality varying with the income of the parents and with the location and 'the type of homes,'" continued Miss Lathrop.

"The deaths of children among poor families in Johnstown, Pa., are five times as great as among the well-to-do in Montclair, N. J., where people have comfortable and easy incomes and the families are Americanized and educated.

"In the tenement quarter of the same town the death rate of babies is double that in the best quarter of the town.

"But the cheerful part of it is that every community has the power to alter these factors, not only to provide education for the children, but free education for adults, good water supply, good homes and good wages.

"We are learning that the question of infant mortality is one that must be met by money expenditure. We must see that the working man receives enough wages to become self-supporting, to assure himself and his family a decent living.

"There should not be a condition where mothers have to work in factories. If the child can get along without its mother, then we might just as well not have mothers at all.

"If the need of older children for mothers is so great as to create the provision for them by a mother's pension in more than twenty states, then we need not argue that a young and helpless baby needs a mother's care."

BRIDGEPORT IS AWAKE.

Bridgeport, Conn., Aug. 28.—In less than two months a policy of aggressive trade unionism has changed this city from what one local newspaper terms "the worst labor conditions in the country to the most advanced in New England."

Since July 12 Bridgeport has witnessed one continual series of successful strikes for shorter hours, higher wages and better working conditions. Women workers have shared in the general upward movement, hand in hand with men, while the large department store of D. M. Read & company has announced an early Saturday night closing.

In the list of betterments, women and girls employed by the Warner Brothers' company won one of the most pronounced victories under the leadership of Mrs. Mary Scully, A. F. of L. organizer. For years these workers have complained against this concern's working system, but it was not until 4,000 of them struck did they wipe out child labor, secure the eight-hour day and a 12 1-2 per cent wage increase. Thousands of workers in munitions plants are now working under the eight-hour system and the laundry workers and other trades are making similar demands. The trade union activity found on every hand was undreamed of a few months ago and labor in this city has awakened to the irresistible power of united action on the economic field.

GEORGIA'S DUTY.

Athens, Ga., Aug. 28.—The Herald of this city says:

"The general assembly has been urged year after year to enact a compulsory education law, but the body has invariably turned a deaf ear to every appeal. The forces engaged in the molding of child life into dollars have thus far successfully combatted every effort set forth to emancipate the child from the thralldom of industrial slavery.

"How much longer is Georgia to be numbered among the disgracefully illiterate states? What will have to happen to force the legislature to a realization of its duty to the men and women of tomorrow? Are even the rudiments of an education to be forever denied the children of the poor of Georgia? Every taxpaying citizen of this state helps to pay for the higher education of those educated in the state university, and consequently why should not the children of these more humble citizens, who are year after year contributing their mite to educate others, be enabled to at least see that their offspring have at least a fighting chance in the world?"

SOUTH IS NOT ALONE.

Bridgeport, Conn., Aug. 28.—Mrs. Mary Scully, A. F. of L. organizer, believes the South is not the only section of this country where child labor is exploited. She says:

"Puritanical New England has long looked askance and pointed the accusing finger at the South for employing child labor, but my investigations have convinced me Connecticut should first cast the beam out of her own eye before trying to pluck the mote from the eye of the South or any other section of the country.

"Labor laws supposed to be for the protection of women workers in Connecticut have long been a joke. It is the most backward state in this respect in New England. Connecticut is not one bit further advanced in regard to child labor and its laws for the future welfare of the human race by safeguarding the health of the women workers than in the South. I have found girls 11 and 12 years old working in factories here for 9, 11 and 15 cents a day."

PATTERN MAK[illegible]

Cincinnati, Aug. 28.—President W[illegible]son of the Pattern Makers' League of North America announces that the Cleveland local of this organization secured without strike the eight-hour day in all job shops, effective Sept. 1. Over 200 men are interested. The nine-hour day has been secured in Racine, Wis. A general betterment of conditions throughout the country has been recorded during the past few months.

CLERKS UNIONIZE STORE.

Boston, Aug. 28.—A. A. Vorenberg & company, one of the large clothing and gents' furnishing concerns in this city, has agreed with A. F. of L. Organizer McCarthy and representatives of the Retail Clerks' union, to unionize its establishment.

STRIKE AT SCHENECTADY.

Schenectady, N. Y., Aug. 28.—Nearly 250 men and girls employed by the General Electric company are on strike because officers and active members of their union—the electrical workers—were discharged when they presented grievances to the management.

NOTICE TO LABOR EDITORS.

Washington, Aug. 28.—President Gompers requests editors of local labor papers to send two copies of their publications each week to the A. F. of L. exhibit, Panama-Pacific exposition, San Francisco.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter, September 19, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

VOL. 5, NO. 22. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1915. WHOLE NO. 230.

POWER OF UNIONISM SHOWN

Chicago, Aug. 28.—"This proves that where the politician, the civil service law and the legislature fail to conserve our interests; our trade union activities do not fail us."

The above is A. F. of L. Organizer Fitzpatrick's concluding sentence in his report of organized labor's successful effort to secure the following gains in state charitable institutions:

Equal pay for men and women, one day rest in seven, an automatic increase in wages based on length of service, change of shifts every seven days instead of every month as heretofore.

Organizer Fitzpatrick shows that from the time hospital attendants and nurses in this state organized, less than two years ago, their gains have been continuous, despite office holders' opposition. The first gain was changing the 12 and 14-hour day to an eight-hour day. The legislature then reduced appropriations for these institutions, and also defeated the bill providing for one day's rest in seven. Regardless of these handicaps, the state board of administration, aided by trade unionists, worked out a system of gains that places Illinois in the van in its treatment of workers in state institutions, and justifies Organizer Fitzpatrick's opinion that the trade union can be depended on, even though office holders ignore just demands.

INDUSTRY'S TOLL.

Jersey City, N. J., Aug. 28.—In a speech on occupational diseases before the state federation of labor, State Commissioner of Labor Bryant said:

"Every minute that passes some worker in this country is injured. Every sixteen minutes some worker dies. Thirty per cent of these injuries can be prevented. Five hundred thousand workers are suffering from some occupational disease, while 3,000,000 are in poor health through some industrial cause."

The convention denounced officials who used their authority to break the Bayonne strike and force these workers to accept conditions offered by Standard Oil. Methods resorted to by employers and public officials in the Roosevelt strike was also condemned and the convention declared:

"The cry of overworked and underpaid workmen shall not be drowned in the hiss of bullets fired by hired gunmen in the guise of deputy sheriffs."

The convention reaffirmed its opposition to a state constabulary and declared its opposition to all officials who use their authority "to deny the right of assemblage and free speech to any body of citizens who may endeavor to better their conditions."

LAWSON JUROR ARRESTED.

Trinidad, Col., Aug. 28.—Grover Hall, a member of the jury which convicted John R. Lawson, has been arrested on a charge of perjury. The complainant is State Attorney General Farrar, who bases his action on the affidavit made by Hall and incorporated in Lawson's motion for a new trial, in which Hall swore that he had been coerced in voting Lawson guilty by a court bailiff and by Judge [illegible]r, who ordered that no food should be furnished the jury until it agreed. The arrest of Hall indicates the straits Lawson's prosecutors are in. In an attempt to weaken Hall's affidavit when the court was considering Lawson's appeal for a new trial, other jurors swore that they looked upon Judge Hillyer's order as a "joke," although they agreed on a verdict shortly afterwards. Hall took the order seriously and in an attempt to weaken his position he is charged with perjury.

STEREOTYPERS GAIN.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Aug. 28.—President Freel, of the International Stereotypers and Electrotypers' union, reports the following recent gains:

Dallas—Evening newspapers—Foremen, $30 per week; journeymen, $3.75 per day; March 1, next year, $3.87 per day; after March 1, 1917, $4 per day. Morning newspapers—Foremen, $30 per week; journeymen, $4 per night; after March 1, 1917, $4.25 per night. The old scale was: Journeymen, days, $3.50; nights, $4.

St. Joseph, Mo.—Wage increases of 25 cents a day and night for all branches.

Lincoln, Neb.—Foremen, $3.75 minimum for day or night; journeymen, $3 minimum for day or night. Latter rates are increased 25 cents a day after June 1, 1917.

Lexington, Ky.—Foreman, not less than $24 a week; journeymen, minimum, $3.

TRICKS OF LAW SHOWN.

Philadelphia, Aug. 28.—Judge Audenreid has reversed an award of $5,500 to Edward B. Stocker, who was struck by a freight car, crushing his leg so badly it had to be amputated.

Stocker's mistake, the judge asserted, was in filing his suit under the federal liability law. It was not proved, the court says, that either the engine or the freight car that hit him was engaged in interstate commerce, therefore the claim should have been filed under the laws of Pennsylvania.

DEMAND FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

Worcester, Mass., Aug. 28.—Municipal authorities have resurrected an old ordinance and unionists are arrested on the charge of "obstructing the streets." Jacob Levine, chairman of the organizing committee of the Central Labor union, was arrested on this charge when addressing a meeting of shop men and the organized workers have appointed a committee to protect freedom of speech. Several speakers have been arrested within the past month, but the law so far has only applied to meetings of workers.

CAN WORKERS WIN STRIKE.

Wheeling, W. Va., Aug. 28.—Organization made it possible for employes of the Wheeling Can company to win a three weeks' strike, secure recognition as unionists and improve working conditions. The company agrees to meet grievance committees and further agrees that those workers who are last employed shall be laid off first during slack times. All employes are reinstated without prejudice.

SHORTER HOURS GRANTED.

Taunton, Mass., Aug. 28.—As a result of conferences with officers of the Machinists' union the Mason machine works' management announce that hereafter the hours of labor will be from 7 a. m. until 5 p. m. five days of the week and from 7 a. m. until 11:30 a. m. Saturday. The ten-hour pay schedule will continue.

SIGN TWO-YEAR CONTRACT.

Cleveland, Aug. 28.—The Horseshoers' union has signed a two years' agreement that extends the Saturday half holiday.

PRAISE COLORADO DECISION

Chicago, Aug. 28.—The Tribune of this city editorially applauds the Colorado supreme court's order debarring Judge Hillyer from further consideration of strike cases. The Tribune says:

"If property rights are not regarded in Colorado, they would be less so if confidence in the courts were weakened. If violence were substituted for orderly process, it would be more so substituted if it were proved that capital could command even the judiciary.

"If it be the intent to break down all restraints which protect a man in the possession of his own, no better way to go about it could be imagined than to give an unfair trail to men who have fought against conditions they do not like."

Boston, Aug. 28.—The Globe, of this city, in discussing the Colorado supreme court's decision in the Lawson case, says "it would seem that the train is at last on the right track in Colorado."

The Globe makes this comment on the court's action in debarring Judge Hillyer from presiding at the future trials of miners:

"A judge, charged with having been in the employ of the coal operators, ought never to have presided at the trial of a labor leader. The country does not feel entirely satisfied as to the personnel of the jury which found Lawson guilty.

"A first step toward the course demanded by justice has been taken. Lawson is at least entitled to a trial of which the fairness cannot be doubted."

WILL PROBE IN FALL, MAYBE.

Washington, Aug. 28.—In a report to President Wilson on the Eastland disaster, Secretary of Commerce Redfield says "that as soon as practicable in the fall a searching inquiry will be made into the whole administration of the steamboat inspection service under the supervision of representatives of the navy department and of the public, so that there will be no question of its impartial character." The secretary states that instructions have been given to the steamboat inspection service to take the necessary steps to carry into affect the additional rules and regulations suggested by the board of inquiry. Instructions have also been given to the steamboat inspection service to call together a special committee consisting of supervising inspectors selected from the Atlantic, Pacific and gulf coasts who shall, with the supervising inspectors upon the great lakes, promptly consider what can be done, within the present lawful scope of the steamboat inspection service, to improve its effectiveness.

CARPENTERS WIN LONG FIGHT.

Hamilton, Ontario, Aug. 28.—The Carpenters' union has won its long controversy with the Confederation Construction company, and work on the new Welland ship canal by this concern will now proceed without friction. The new contract provides for a 40-cent minimum, time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sundays and holidays. The work day shall be nine hours and only members of the Carpenters' union are to be employed. All future differences will be adjusted by arbitration. The company's contract amounts to over $10,000,000, and it is claimed it will not be completed before 1919. The carpenters' victory is the result of persistent agitation and appeals to the Dominion department of labor that the company live up to its contract and the fair wage clause included therein.

REFUTE LABOR SHORTAGE CRY.

Philadelphia, Aug. 28.—The North American exposes the coal operators' claim that prices must be increased this winter because of a labor shortage, due to the war. The companies are storing huge stocks of coal and the paper says:

"So far as labor goes, the only reservists who are going home to fight in any numbers are Italians, and there are very few Italians employed in the anthracite mines. Most of the workers are Slovac, and the Slavs are finding it very difficult, indeed, to make their way back to Russia or Austria, even when they are anxious to go."

Another reason for the operators' activity is that the agreement between them and the miners will expire next April.

ACTIVITY IN SPRINGFIELD.

Springfield, Mass., Aug. 28.—The "labor forward" movement now being conducted by the Central Labor union, is devoting especial attention to organizing machinists. This has resulted in an eight-hour day without wage decreases in some of the larger shops. Over 500 machinists have joined the union of their craft. Meetings are being held at the shop gates. A federal union of button workers has been organized. These workers have settled their strike and secured gains. The state board of arbitration assisted. The textile industry is being given much attention by the "labor forward" committee and English and foreign speakers report that these meetings are well attended.

DEMAND ARBITRATION.

Detroit, Aug. 28.—Trade unionists declare they will oppose the proposed municipal ownership amendment to the city charter providing for municipal ownership unless a clause is inserted guaranteeing arbitration of disputes with employes. Members of the local federation of labor's legislative committee point out another objection to the proposed amendment. This permits city officials who manage the road to compel employes to take a civil service examination "and say you can come in, but must keep out of labor unions."

"MACHINE" NOT DEFECTIVE.

Olympia, Wash., Aug. 28.—Edward Kelly was kicked by a mule, and in explaining to the state industrial insurance commission how he was injured, he filled out part of the official form as follows:

"State part of machinery on which accident occurred."

Answer—"The hind part of a mule."

"Was the machinery in good working order?"

Answer—"Yes."

The commission failed to make any safety first recommendation but allowed Kelly $27.65 in settlement of his claim.

CAR MAN AVERAGED $10.70.

Providence, R. I., Aug. 28.—At the wage adjustment hearing before the board of arbitration, street car men testified that the present wage basis is unfair, and that no extra pay for Sunday work is allowed. It was shown that in the case of one motorman the lowest weekly wage was $8.61 and the highest $14.95, an average of $10.76 from Jan. 2, 1915, to April 17, 1915.

FEDERAL PROBERS OF INDUSTRIAL UNREST COMPLETE REPORT

Opinions of Chairman Walsh and Labor Colleagues Have "Teeth"

Chicago, Aug. 28.—Last Monday the United States commission on industrial relations adjourned sine die after giving final approval to a report that will be filed with the clerk of the house of representatives for presentation to congress, when it convenes next December.

The commission has issued excerpts of the report, which includes supplemental views of all the members.

The principal report, prepared by Basil M. Manly, the commission's director of research and investigation, covers every phase of industrial unrest and the causes therefor. This is approved by Chairman Walsh and Commissioners O'Connell, Lennon and Garretson. It declares the crux of the whole question of industrial relations is: "Shall the workers, for the protection of their interests, be organized and represented collectively by their chosen delegates, even as the stockholders are represented by their directors and by the various grades of executive officials and bosses."

In its plea for a wider extension of democracy in industry, this report says:

"The ordinary man, whether employer or worker, has relatively little contact with the government. If he and his family are well fed, well housed and well clothed, and if he can pay for the education of his children, he can exist even under an autocratic monarchy with little concern until some critical situation develops in which his own liberty is interfered with or until he is deprived of life or property by the overwhelming power of his tyrannical ruler. But his industrial relations determine every day what he and his family shall eat, what they shall wear, how many hours of his life he shall labor and in what surroundings. Under certain conditions where his individual or corporate employer owns or controls the community in which he lives, the education of his children, the character and prices of his food, clothing and house, his own actions, speech and opinions, and in some cases even his religion, are controlled and determined, insofar as the interests of the employer make it desirable for him to exercise such control. Such conditions are established and maintained not only through the dictation of all working conditions of employment by the employer, but by his usurpation or control of the functions and machinery of political government in such communities."

The report summarizes the causes of industrial unrest as follows:

Unjust distribution of wealth and income.

Unemployment and denial of opportunity to earn a living.

Denial of justice in the creation, in the adjudication and in the administration of law.

Denial of the right and opportunity to form effective organizations.

It is shown that 44 families possess aggregate incomes totaling at least $50,000,000 per year, while between one-fourth and one-third of male workers in factories and mines, 18 years of age and over, earn less than $10 per week and only about one-tenth earn more than $20 per week.

To check these swollen, unearned fortunes, it is recommended that congress pass an inheritance tax law and that all funds of deceased over $1,000,000 revert to the government. In support of this action, the report says:

"These heirs, owners only by virtue of the accident of birth, control the livelihoods and have the power to dictate the happiness of more human beings than populated England in the middle ages. Their principalities, it is true, are scattered and, through the medium of stock ownership, shared in part with others; but they are none the less real. In fact, such scattered, invisible industrial principalities are a greater menace to the welfare of the Nation than would be equal power consolidated into numerous petty kingdoms in different parts of the country. They might then be visualized and guarded against—now their influence invisibly permeates and controls every phase of life and industry.

"The 'families' of these industrial princes are already well established and are knit together not only by commercial alliances, but by a network of intermarriages which assure harmonious action whenever their common interest is threatened."

It is declared that the unemployment situation will not be "appreciably relieved" until great advances have been made in removing the two prime causes—unjust distribution of wealth and monopolization of land and natural resources.

Under the head "Denial of Justice," the numerous charges of workers are supported, and the report declares:

"The establishment of property rights and personal rights on the same level can leave only a constant and ever growing menace to our popular institutions. With the acceptance of such an ideal our democracy is doomed to ultimate destruction. Personal rights must be recognized as supreme and of unalterable ascendency over property rights. Relief from these grave evils cannot be secured by petty reforms. The action must be drastic and directed at the roots from which these evils spring."

The pretense of "open shop" advocates is exposed thusly:

"The theory of the 'open shop,' according to these witnesses (employers), is that workers are employed without any reference to their membership or non-membership in trade unions; while, as a matter of fact, it was found upon investigation that these employers did not willingly or knowingly employ union men. Nevertheless, this is deemed to be a minor point. The 'open shop,' even if union men are not discriminated against, is as much a denial of the right of collective action as is the 'anti-union shop.' In neither is the collective action of employes permitted for the purpose of negotiating with reference to labor conditions. Both in theory and practice, in the absence of legislative regulation, the working conditions are fixed by the employer. It is evident, therefore, that there can at best be only a benevolent despotism where collective action on the part of employes does not exist."

In discussing "Women and Children in Industry," the report says:

"As a result of their unprotected condition, women and children are exploited in industry, trade, domestic service and agriculture, to an extent which threatens their health and welfare and menaces the well-being of future generations. The competition of women and children is a direct menace to the wage and salary standards of men. Under present conditions children are permitted by their parents to go to work largely because their earnings are necessary for the support of the rest of the family."

HOW THEY DIVIDED.

Speaking generally, the commission on industrial relations is divided into two groups, one supporting the Manly report, the other, the Commons report. The individuals in these groups again divided on minor points.

The "Manly group" consists of Chairman Walsh and Commissioners O'Connell, Lennon and Garretson, the three last representing labor. These four members insist that the commission was appointed for the purpose of finding the "causes" of industrial unrest, and deal with such questions as swollen fortunes, monopolization of land and natural resources, feudalism in industry, etc.

The "Commons group" consists of Commissioners Commons, Florence J. Harriman, Aishton, Weinstock and Ballard, the last three representing employers. This group declares the greatest cause for industrial unrest is "the breakdown in the administration of labor laws" and the distrust of government "on the part of a large portion of our people." To remedy this alleged condition, this group favors an elaborate system of machinery to "settle" strikes, enforce labor laws and take charge of all social legislation and make recommendations for same. It would be supported by an inheritance tax. The plan would practically destroy the federal department of labor and would establish a powerful bureaucracy. This group does not favor holding individuals responsible for conditions in Colorado and can see much merit in the Rockefeller and other foundations.

In a supplemental report the three employers' representatives declare labor is justified in organizing to "protect itself against exploitation and oppression."

PHYSICAL TESTS OPPOSED

San Francisco, Aug. 28.—The Labor Clarion calls attention to what it terms "an epidemic among employers for the physical examination of employes." This paper says:

"Under present conditions those workers who are compelled by low wages and long hours to live in the midst of insanitary surroundings cannot hope to be broad-chested and rosy-cheeked enough to come under the requirements of such employers and must necessarily go down in the whirlpool created by the cry for profits.

"With these examinations, as a rule, also goes an age limit, fixed at from 35 to 45 years, barring men, even though healthy, from the right to work if they have passed the specified maximum.

"Neither the employer nor society has the moral right to insist upon such qualifications until some system of insurance has been established covering unemployment, invalidity, sickness and old age.

"To say that a man in the full possession of all his faculties shall be consigned to the scrap heap because he has passed the age of 45, is monstrous, yet such a rule is not one jot more vicious than is the one which shelves the worker because he has some slight physical defect, which may not in the slightest degree decrease his efficiency.

"The apprehensions of the workers concerning the dangers that lurk in these systems are not based upon theory or deduction. They are the result of actual experience and cannot, therefore, be lightly swept aside by employers as devoid of merit.

"Wherever one finds an employer insisting upon these things as a requisite to employment it is almost certain an examination of his record as an employer will reveal him in the capacity of a slave driver with no interest whatever in humanity. This is the rule, and the exceptions are rare, indeed."

ON EIGHT-HOUR BASIS.

Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 28.—The Toledo Machine and Tool company has signed an eight-hour agreement with the Machinists' union. The new scale calls for a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour for machinists and 45 cents an hour for die makers. About 400 men are effected.

STEAM ENGINEERS ORGANIZE.

Hamilton, Ontario, Aug. 28.—Local No. 586 of the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers has been organized.

APPROVE TESTS FOR SEAMEN.

Washington, Aug. 28.—The federal department of commerce has approved regulations fixed by the public health service governing the physical examination of applicants for able seamen's positions on American ships after the seamen's law takes effect next November. At present no physical examination of seamen is required. Under the new law the following defects act as a bar:

Broadly impaired vision, color blindness, deafness, epilepsy, insanity, severe chronic cardiac affections, hernia, severe varicose veins, open tuberculosis, or any chronic defect which will materially interfere with the discharge of the duties of an able seaman.

Moreover, certificates will not be issued to applicants who have not been successfully vaccinated against smallpox within five years. If the applicant has not had typhoid or has not been innoculated against it, he will be advised to be so inoculated.

The department of commerce is proceeding with the work of fixing regulations for enforcement of the seamen's act, although final steps for placing the law in operation are being deferred until the attorney general passes on legal questions now before him relating to the administration of the law.

FARMERS ASKED TO AFFILIATE.

Emporia, Kans., Aug. 28.—The state federation of labor convention invited the Farmers' union to affiliate. Resolutions against the conviction of Lawson were passed. G. E. Blakely of this city was elected president, and George Hamlin of Leavenworth, secretary-treasurer. The convention favored congress printing copies of the report of the commission on industrial relations for free distribution.

EIGHT HOURS FOR OIL WORKERS

Port Arthur, Tex., Aug. 28.—The Gulf Refining company has accepted the eight hour principle and hereafter all work will be done on the shorter work day plan. About 1,500 employes are effected. Many of them formerly labored twelve hours a day.

BROOM MAKERS ORGANIZE.

Galveston, Tex., Aug. 28.—Broom makers in this city have formed a local and affiliated to the international organization of that craft.

COLORADO "BEATING BACK"

Racine, Wis., Aug. 28.—Says the Racine Daily Call in a leading editorial:

"Colorado is 'beating back.' Justice in the Centennial state is waking up. Its supreme court, so long subsidized by Rockefeller interests, has administered a stinging rebuke to those who conspired to railroad John R. Lawson to the penitentiary for life; and Judge Granby Hillyer, the special jurist of the mine owners, whose bias has been notorious, has been debarred from sitting in any more trials involving the miners' strike.

"Lawson, though admitted never to have fired a shot in the mine war, was convicted of murder on the general principle of being a labor leader and therefore guilty of conspiring to kill the mine guards. His trial was a farce and his sentence an outrage.

"It is good to believe that the highest court of Colorado has been stirred by the same conscience that has stirred the people throughout the United States. Lawson was to be railroaded for life imprisonment, or to the gallows even, to warn others that they must not resist the proved tyrannies of the coal companies. If the Colorado supreme court prevents that iniquity it will do the best day's work for courts that has been done in a long time.

"Yes, Colorado is coming back. Injustice such as was heaped on the mine workers at Ludlow cannot endure and the inherent sense of fair play in all normal men eventually rises supreme to their subsidized consciousnesses.

"Colorado is seeing her error and seeing it is making reparation. The temper of the supreme court is conclusive evidence of the dawning of a new day in that state."

MINERS JOINING UNION.

Hazelton, Pa., Aug. 28.—Last week President White, of the United Mine Workers' union, started on the last lap of his organizing campaign through the three anthracite districts. In his opening address in this city to the miners of district No. 7 he declared that the coal diggers were awake to the necessity of standing 100 per cent strong behind their representatives at the forthcoming tri-district convention at Wilkes-Barre, which will formulate the new wage scale. It is estimated that President White has been listened to by a quarter of a million of people throughout the hard coal regions. In his opening speech in this city he referred to conditions in Colorado and charged that Rockefeller money is financing the attempt to railroad trade unionists to jail.

ROCKEFELLER BLAMED FOR COLORADO OUTRAGES

Chicago, Aug. 28.—The responsibility for the strike of coal miners in Colorado in 1913 and 1914, and for the disorder and suffering that followed, is placed squarely on the shoulders of operators in a report by George P. West to the commission on industrial relations.

The report is indorsed by Commissioners Walsh, O'Connell, Lennon, and Garretson.

The Colorado Fuel and Iron company, controlled by John D. Rockefeller, is declared to have been the leader in formulating and carrying out strike policies. Mr. Rockefeller and his son are charged, first, with the selection of incompetent and reactionary agents to serve as executive officials in this company, and, second, with giving their heartiest indorsement and support to these officials after they had taken action and precipitated the worst of troubles.

Rockefeller, jr., is charged with having approved measures to coerce the state government of Colorado and with having flouted the will of the President of the United States.

The report says:

"During all the seven tragic and bitter months that preceded Ludlow, Mr. Rockefeller wrote letter after letter in enthusiastic praise of men whose acts during this period had precipitated a reign of terror and bloodshed. It was only when the Ludlow massacre filled the press of the Nation with editorial denunciation, when mourners in black silently paraded in front of his New York office, when cartoons in the conservative press pilloried him and his father before an angry public, that at last complacency gives way to concern in his letters and telegrams to Denver."

John R. Lawson is referred to as "a man of exceptionally high character and a good citizen in every sense of the word."

In referring to John Nimmo, whose death Lawson is held responsible for, the report says:

"Nimmo was one of a small army of deputy sheriffs, employed and paid by the coal companies and deputized by subservient sheriffs, who made little or no effort to investigate their records. Thus Sheriff Jefferson Farr, of Huerfano county, testified before this commission that the men to whom he gave deputies' commissions might have been, so far as he knew, red-handed murderers fresh from the scene of their crimes. That many guards deputized in this illegal fashion and paid by the Colorado Fuel & Iron company, were men of the lowest and most vicious character has been clearly established."

The report recites events leading up to Lawson's trial, and then declares:

"The prosecution and conviction of Mr. Lawson, under these circumstances, and his sentence to life imprisonment at hard labor, marked the lowest depths of the prostitution of Colorado's government to the will of the Colorado Fuel & Iron company and its associates. It is the crowning infamy of all the infamous record in Colorado of American institutions perverted and debauched by selfish private interests. It is anarchism stripped of every pretense of even that chimerical idealism that fires the unbalanced mind of the bomb thrower. It is anarchism for profits and revenge, and it menaces the security and integrity of American institutions as they seldom have been menaced before."

ARE WELL TRAINED PARROTS

San Francisco, Aug. 28.—The above term is used by Editor Barry of the Star in answering the claim of John C. Hatzell that the seamen's law will die without going into effect, and that "in many ways it is impractical."

Hatzell is a member of the board of governors in charge of the New York state school ship Newport, now in San Francisco Bay, and Editor Barry makes this comment on the eastern man's views:

"It seems that the order has gone forth from the 'financial district' of New York to knock the seamen's law. Common sailors have no influence in financial districts; besides, sailors are accustomed to the present law—which is inhuman—and there's no telling what they might do if they were treated as men. Anyway, the financial interests that are trying to break down the seamen's law have a large flock of well-trained parrots, which never miss an opportunity to say something against the law.

"When working men and women strike against low wages and bad conditions, we hear a good deal from the New York financial district about 'law and order,' and 'respect for law' and 'obeying the law.' But those nice shibboleths are forgotten when the seamen's law is discussed. Mr. Hatzell does not tell why or how the seamen's law is impractical. Perhaps he doesn't know."

EMPLOYMENT PLAN URGED.

Philadelphia, Aug. 28.—At a conference in this city organized labor, aid societies and the state department of labor and industry joined hands in recommending a state bureau of employment. An official of the Federation of Italian Societies said such a bureau would prevent exploitation. "It is nothing uncommon for a contractor to force a man to wait five days for one day's pay," he said. "I have known poor Italians to make three or four trips to Germantown from the Italian colony to collect wages for a few hours' work."

Prof. Wilits, of the University of Pennsylvania, said:

"Big business today is represented by superintendents and foremen, who, as a rule, are the most inhuman institutions in our American life. As a result, we have thousands of men shifting from one job to another, which means economic loss and much human suffering."

President Maurer, of the state federation of labor, supported this claim, declaring that employers vest too much authority with subordinates.

URGE STATE LABOR BUREAU.

Charleston, S. C., Aug. 28.—At the first convention of the South Carolina federation of labor it was voted to ask the legislature to establish a state labor bureau. The unionists favored a state system of highways, a compensation bill and a 50-car bill to apply to railroads. Officers were instructed to urge the Farmers' union to act with the industrial workers in matters of mutual interest. Governor Manning was unable to be present, but in a letter to the convention, he said:

"By uniting together, the men whom you represent form a powerful factor in the conduct of the affairs of the state and the Nation. The influence of labor is great. I recognize the soundness of its principles by incorporating many of them into my platform last summer; and again in my inaugural address bringing to the attention of the general assembly matters in which labor is interested."

GIVES BONUS BUT BARS UNIONS.

Springfield, Mass., Aug. 28.—The Smith & Wesson company, makers of rifles, announce the inauguration of a bonus system, beginning Sept. 1. All employes will be paid 5 per cent of their total earnings during each quarter for the next year. One of the conditions makes it impossible for a worker to join a labor union and receive the bonus, as it provides that the worker must notify the company if he intends joining such labor organization. If an employe resigns or is discharged he is disqualified from receiving the bonus.

The company does not deny that the new scheme was installed for the purpose of "quieting discontent." Trade unionists are comparing this "concession" with the gains organized workers secure without surrendering individual rights.

SECURE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Philadelphia, Aug. 28.—Insulators and Asbestos Workers' union has signed an eight-hour contract with employers. Work done after 5 p. m. and until 10 p. m. shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half. Double time shall be paid for work after 10 p. m. and on holidays. No work shall be done on Labor Day as the employers agree to pay the prohibitive rates of three times the regular rates. Employers shall pay all car fare in excess of 10 cents daily. The minimum rates shall be $2.50 per day until August 1, 1916, and $2.75 from that date until August 5, 1917. Only union men are to be employed.

WANTS LAND FOR PEASANTS.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Aug. 28.—A demand that the Porto Rico government put its peasants on the land is made by A. F. of L. Organizer Iglesias, in the official newspaper of the federation of labor. The trade unionist says absentee property owners and foreign corporations have grown rich through agriculture and the guarantees offered by modern conditions. Industrial depression and speculation are at their height, and rents, interest rates and living costs have risen proportionately, says Iglesias.

PRINTERS SIGN AGREEMENT.

Toronto, Ontario, Aug. 28.—Typographical union has accepted the award of an arbitration board to extend its contract one year. Unsettled industrial conditions because of the war made wage increases impossible, but several improvements in working conditions are secured.

KANSAS MINERS WIN.

Pittsburg, Kans., Aug. 28.—Union miners employed by the Sheridan Coal company have won their strike. The workers insisted on an equitable distribution of work at one of the subsidiary mines of the Sheridan company. About 1,000 miners were involved.

BRASS MOLDERS WIN.

Cleveland, Aug. 28.—Nearly a score of brass molding shops in this city have agreed to a [illegible] minimum wage and a $4.25 minimum for piece work. President Valentine, of the International Molders' union, assisted in the negotiations.

SAVING BABE SAVES FAMILY

San Francisco, Aug. 28.—"Wherever the life of the infant is safeguarded the standard of life of the whole family is lifted," said Miss Julia Lathrop, chief of the federal children's bureau, in a speech in this city.

"In all our investigations we find the infant mortality varying with the income of the parents and with the location and the type of homes," continued Miss Lathrop.

"The deaths of children among poor families in Johnstown, Pa., are five times as great as among the well-to-do in Montclair, N. J., where people have comfortable and easy incomes and the families are Americanized and educated.

"In the tenement quarter of the same town the death rate of babies is double that in the best quarter of the town.

"But the cheerful part of it is that every community has the power to alter these factors, not only to provide education for the children, but free education for adults, good water supply, good homes and good wages.

"We are learning that the question of infant mortality is one that must be met by money expenditure. We must see that the working man receives enough wages to become self-supporting, to assure himself and his family a decent living.

"There should not be a condition where mothers have to work in factories. If the child can get along without its mother, then we might just as well not have mothers at all.

"If the need of older children for mothers is so great as to create the provision for them by a mother's pension in more than twenty states, then we need not argue that a young and helpless baby needs a mother's care."

BRIDGEPORT IS AWAKE.

Bridgeport, Conn., Aug. 28.—In less than two months a policy of aggressive trade unionism has changed this city from what one local newspaper terms "the worst labor conditions in the country to the most advanced in New England."

Since July 12 Bridgeport has witnessed one continual series of successful strikes for shorter hours, higher wages and better working conditions. Women workers have shared in the general upward movement, hand in hand with men, while the large department store of D. M. Read & company has announced an early Saturday night closing.

In the list of betterments, women and girls employed by the Warner Brothers' company won one of the most pronounced victories under the leadership of Mrs. Mary Scully, A. F. of L. organizer. For years these workers have complained against this concern's working system, but it was not until 4,000 of them struck did they wipe out child labor, secure the eight-hour day and a 12 1-2 per cent wage increase. Thousands of workers in munitions plants are now working under the eight-hour system and the laundry workers and other trades are making similar demands. The trade union activity found on every hand was undreamed of a few months ago and labor in this city has awakened to the irresistible power of united action on the economic field.

GEORGIA'S DUTY.

Athens, Ga., Aug. 28.—The Herald of this city says:

"The general assembly has been urged year after year to enact a compulsory education law, but the body has invariably turned a deaf ear to every appeal. The forces engaged in the molding of child life into dollars have thus far successfully combatted every effort set forth to emancipate the child from the thralldom of industrial slavery.

"How much longer is Georgia to be numbered among the disgracefully illiterate states? What will have to happen to force the legislature to a realization of its duty to the men and women of tomorrow? Are even the rudiments of an education to be forever denied the children of the poor of Georgia? Every taxpaying citizen of this state helps to pay for the higher education of those educated in the state university, and consequently why should not the children of these more humble citizens, who are year after year contributing their mite to educate others, be enabled to at least see that their offspring have at least a fighting chance in the world?"

SOUTH IS NOT ALONE.

Bridgeport, Conn., Aug. 28.—Mrs. Mary Scully, A. F. of L. organizer, believes the South is not the only section of this country where child labor is exploited. She says:

"Puritanical New England has long looked askance and pointed the accusing finger at the South for employing child labor, but my investigations have convinced me Connecticut should first cast the beam out of her own eye before trying to pluck the mote from the eye of the South or any other section of the country.

"Labor laws supposed to be for the protection of women workers in Connecticut have long been a joke. It is the most backward state in this respect in New England. Connecticut is not one bit further advanced in regard to child labor and its laws for the future welfare of the human race by safeguarding the health of the women workers than in the South. I have found girls 11 and 12 years old working in factories here for 9, 11 and 15 cents a day."

PATTERN MAK[illegible]

Cincinnati, Aug. 28.—President Wilson of the Pattern Makers' League of North America announces that the Cleveland local of this organization secured without strike the eight-hour day in all job shops, effective Sept. 1. Over 200 men are interested. The nine-hour day has been secured in Racine, Wis. A general betterment of conditions throughout the country has been recorded during the past few months.

CLERKS UNIONIZE STORE.

Boston, Aug. 28.—A. A. Verenberg & company, one of the large clothing and gents' furnishing concerns in this city, has agreed with A. F. of L. Organizer McCarthy and representatives of the Retail Clerks' union, to unionize its establishment.

STRIKE AT SCHENECTADY.

Schenectady, N. Y., Aug. 28.—Nearly 250 men and girls employed by the General Electric company are on strike because officers and active members of their union—the electrical workers—were discharged when they presented grievances to the management.

NOTICE TO LABOR EDITORS.

Washington, Aug. 28.—President Gompers requests editors of local labor papers to send two copies of their publications each week to the A. F. of L. exhibit, Panama-Pacific exposition, San Francisco.